



February 1, 2010

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

On behalf of Wisconsin's at-risk teens, we respectfully present to you our FY11 appropriations request in the amount of \$318,800.00 for Forward Service Corporation (FSC) and Jobs for America's Graduates ~ Wisconsin (JAG~WI). Recently named the Wisconsin affiliate for Jobs For America's Graduates ~ Wisconsin (JAG~WI), Forward Service Corporation (FSC), formed in 1979 as a private, 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, exists to help lower-income or disadvantaged persons build brighter futures through job training, support, and education. Jobs for America's Graduates, or JAG, has a 30-year history of implementing a school-to-career program in over 700 high schools, alternative schools, community colleges, and middle schools across the U.S. FSC and JAG's Mission is to retain and work with young people in high school, through graduation, and for 12-months after graduation, as well as, provide work-based learning experiences that will lead to career advancement opportunities, or to enroll in a postsecondary institution leading to a rewarding career.

Briefly, the primary objectives of the JAG~WI program are based on 26 barriers to success as defined by JAG National including targeting young people at-risk of not graduating, keeping students engaged and in school through graduation or completion of a GED, extending program services to students for 12-months after graduation or completion of a GED, and assisting graduates in pursuit of a postsecondary education and/or an entry-level job that leads to a rewarding career. Achieving the JAG National 88-module competency curriculum, and computerized tracking in the JAG National Data Management System of students served, services delivered, and performance outcomes achieved, provide JAG~WI with a vehicle for holding programs accountable for achieving JAG National Best Practices. Best practice benchmarks include a 90% graduation rate, 80% positive outcomes rate, 60% employment rate/full-time jobs rate, and an 80% full-time placement rate.

Currently serving 45 Sun Prairie Alternative Learning Center students, ages 16-18 (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> graders), that possess significant barriers to academic and career success, the JAG~WI program not only has lasting affects on the lives of the youth enrolled in the program, but has a deep and lasting impact on the face of our communities including drastically reducing the number of high school dropouts, decreasing the number of students interacting with the criminal justice system, increasing high school graduation rates for African American, Hispanic, and Native American students, and increasing the number of students pursuing post-secondary education opportunities.

Targeted growth includes retaining 45 students at Sun Prairie Alternative Learning Center and expanding the program to three additional locations in Wisconsin's 2<sup>nd</sup> District. Expansion includes 45 students at Sun Prairie High School, 45 students at Verona Area High School, and 45 students at Deforest Area High School. Additionally, program services for JAG~WI graduates continue for 12-months post-graduation.

More must be done to ensure that our students are prepared to compete in a global economy. Appropriations funding will be instrumental in supporting and accelerating the comprehensive JAG~WI plan presented to you today. We appreciate your consideration of Forward Service Corporation and Jobs for America's Graduates ~ Wisconsin's strong commitment to this mission. We look forward to joining President Obama and you as we work to create a nation without dropouts.

Sincerely,

*Marcia Christensen*

Marcia Christensen  
CEO

Jobs for America's Graduates ~ Wisconsin / Forward Service Corporation